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Message Text

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65
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

AF-06 /076 W
---------- 015363
R 151515Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7032
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL OPORTO

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1395

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PO, SW
SUBJECT: PALME STATEMENTS AT OPORTO MEETING OF EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS

REF: OPORTO 107

1. THE SWEDISH PRESS MARCH 15 CARRIED STATEMENTS MADE BY PRIME MINISTER OLOF PALME AT THE OPORTO MEETING OF EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS. DAGENS NYHETER (INDEPENDENT) ALSO REPORTED THAT IN RESPONSE TO PROTEST BY PPD LEADER SA CARNEIRO RE PRESENCE OF PALME AND OTHER EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS AT PS RALLY, SWEDISH EMBASSY IN LISBON
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STATED THAT PALME HAD ATTENDED RALLY IN HIS ROLE AS SOCIAL

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DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN AND "NOT AS PRIME MINISTER."
PAPER QUOTES PALME AS FOLLOWS:

2. "THE SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS FOR OVER 10 YEARS HAD CONTACTS WITH THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND NOT WITH THE PPD. THEREFORE, IT IS NATURAL FOR US TO CONTINUE OUR SUPPORT OF SOARES." THE OPORTO MEETING, HE SAID WAS A "NATURAL CONTINUATION" OF THE SOLIDARITY ACTION TOWARDS PORTUGAL WHICH SOCIALIST LEADERS HAD BEGUN AT LAST AUGUST'S MEETING IN STOCKHOLM, ADDING "WE CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT A DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT IN PORTUGAL." AT THE OPORTO MEETING, PALME SAID, THE SOCIALIST LEADERS WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSING THEIR SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN SPAIN.

3. ASKED BY A REPORTER WHAT HIS REACTION WOULD BE IF SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK) LEADER LARS WERNER INVITED A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST LEADERS TO SWEDEN BEFORE THE SWEDISH ELECTIONS, PALME REPLIED THAT "IF HE (WERNER) INVITED HUSAK TO STOCKHOLM, I DON'T THINK IT WOULD HURT VERY MUCH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS." HE ADDED THAT IF THE SWEDISH CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER GOSTA BOHMAN INVITED FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS TO SWEDEN, IT ALSO WOULD NOT HURT THE SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.

4. THE PAPER QUOTED PALME AS PRAISING MARIO SOARES FOR HIS "FANTASTIC CONTRIBUTION" TO PORTUGUESE POLITICS. PALME SAID THAT THE SUNDAY NIGHT MEETING IN OPORTO HAD DEMONSTRATED HOW SOARES HAS "GROWN INTO THE ROLE OF A POLITICAL LEADER," ADDING THAT SOARES' SPEECH HAD BEEN "EXTREMELY FORCEFUL."
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